

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1, and add new claims 22-24, as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A process for improving the printability of paper and paper products by enhancing the water resistance of ink-jet printed images, wherein said process comprises treating the paper or the paper products with an aqueous solution comprising a cationic polymer, wherein the cationic polymer is a hydrolyzed homopolymer of N-vinylformamide having a degree of hydrolysis of ~~20-100~~ 50-100 % and comprises positive charge providing units consisting essentially of vinylamine units, has a charge density of at least 3 meq/g and is used as the sole treatment composition in the aqueous solution, wherein said composition is applied in an amount of from 0.05 g/m² to 5 g/m² to the surface of the paper or the surface of the paper product.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the charge density of the cationic polymer is from 3.5 meq/g to 23 meq/g.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the charge density of the cationic polymer is from 8 meq/g to 20 meq/g.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the cationic polymer has a molar mass M_w of at least 10,000 Dalton.

Claim 5 (Cancelled).

Claim 6 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous solution comprising the cationic polymer is applied to the paper or the paper product with the aid of a size press, a film press, a spraying means, a coating unit or a paper calender.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented) A paper which is obtained by the process according to claim 1.

Claim 8 (Cancelled).

Claim 9 (Previously Presented) The paper according to claim 7, wherein said paper is an ink-jet printing paper.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented) A paper product which is obtained by the process according to claim 1.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the cationic polymer has a molar mass M_w of from 50,000 Dalton to 5,000,000 Dalton.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the cationic polymer has a molar mass M_w of from 100,000 Dalton to 2,000,000 Dalton.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous solution comprising the cationic polymer has a viscosity of 3,000 mPa·s or less at 20°C.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous solution comprising the cationic polymer has a viscosity of 2,000 mPa·s or less at 20°C.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous solution comprising the cationic polymer has a viscosity of from 10 mPa·s to 1,000 mPa·s at 20°C.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the cationic polymer is applied to the paper in an amount of from 0.05 g/m² to 5 g/m².

Claim 17 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the cationic polymer is applied to the paper in an amount of from 0.1 g/m² to 3 g/m².

Claim 18 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the cationic polymer is applied to the paper in an amount of from 0.5 g/m² to 2 g/m².

Claims 19-21 (Cancelled).

Claim 22 (New) The process according to claim 1, wherein the cationic polymer is a hydrolyzed homopolymer of N-vinylformamide having a degree of hydrolysis of 50-90 %.

Claim 23 (New) The process according to claim 1, wherein the cationic polymer is a hydrolyzed homopolymer of N-vinylformamide having a degree of hydrolysis of 75-90 %.

Claim 24 (New) The process according to claim 1, wherein the cationic polymer is a hydrolyzed homopolymer of N-vinylformamide having a degree of hydrolysis of 50-75 %.